

**Agenda**

March 16, 2022

10:00-11:30am

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96257230648?pwd=RE9pTEYrYzZXbFRNb0dFTUowR2pxdz09>

**Welcome and Introductions**

Albert Maribaga - Lincoln Catholic Social Services

Allison Hatch – LPED

Amber Knapp - AJC

Amity Kuzelka – Healthy Families America

Ashley Shum – The Center for People in Need - TRADE

Bob Herpolsheimer - NDOL

Carol Tucker – Lutheran Family Services

Clay Naff – Lincoln Literacy

Courtney Gadeken – Lincoln Housing Authority

David Kamran – SCC Continuing Education

Dawn Carrillo - Lincoln Career Center NDOL

Gary Maixner – NDOL

Joshua Redfield – Nebraska VR

Tamara Ramirez Proteus

Karen Krull – Nebraska VR

Kaylie Hogan-Schnittker – LPED

Kim Clark – Better Living Counseling Services

Lindsy Karel - Nebraska VR

Ronesha Love – AJC

Mary Matusiak - Nebraska VR

Mike Fitzgerald – Catholic Social Services

Nizar – Lutheran Family Services

Olivia – The Center for People in Need

Scott Koke - Equus

Shannon Peterson – NDOL

Stefanie Torres Chan – Health Center Association of Nebraska

Tamara R – Proteus

Zach Lomison – Equus

Ryan Uher – AJC

Walker Plank - OFCCP

**Employer Visitors**

**Agency & Resource Provider Quick Overviews**

* USDOL Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs – Walker Plank, plank.walker@dol.gov
	+ Looks at employment policies for companies doing business with the government and make sure they are not discriminating against individuals within protective classes. Selects businesses through a neutral selection process and performs compliance review. Also investigates complaints. If anyone believes they have been discriminated against can file a complaint (electronically or mail/fax the form) and Walker’s team will go onsite to investigate. If the business is not a federal contractor, oftentimes refers the complaint to the EEOC.
	+ Also assists federal contractors with outreach – they have outreach obligations to look at availability of women and minorities in their area and set goals for workforce to reflect composition of workforce to match area population. Individuals with disabilities and veterans they are supposed to engage in positive outreach and recruitment (plus benchmarks)
	+ OFCCP Website: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccpA link to the agency’s general site.
	+ OFCCP Worker Landing Page: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/workersThis is the landing page for frequently asked questions and resources for workers, including our handouts and fact sheets.
	+ OFCCP FAQs: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/faqsAgency Frequently Asked Questions, arranged by topic.
	+ OFCCP Complaint Page: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/contact/file-complaintLanding page with instructions on how to file a complaint in multiple languages.
* Nebraska VR – Lindsy Karel, lindsy.karel@nebraska.gov
	+ Business Account Manager – building relationships with businesses and connecting businesses with services offered by Nebraska VR. Enables someone with a disability to access and maintain employment while helping businesses access and recruit employees.
	+ Partners with Cornhusker Marriott and Hy-Vee to give clients experience
	+ Offers disability training for businesses
	+ Spends time with businesses to understand needs and provides referrals for qualified candidates.
	+ Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) --$2,400 in tax credits for every individual hired, Disabled Access Credit (for small businesses), and Barrier Removal Tax Deduction.
* David Kamran – SCC Continuing Education
	+ Programs classes for trades and industry. Affordable and accessible training to help prepare them for long-term career.

**Unemployment Update**

* [Nebraska INFOlink](https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/InfoLink)
	+ [Labor Area Summary for Lincoln, Nebraska](https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/webdocs/Resources/Trends/January%202022/Area%20Summaries.pdf)
	+ [Nebraska Unemployment in Brief](https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/webdocs/Resources/Trends/December%202021/UI%20in%20Brief%20December%202021.pdf) (not updated at this point)
* Lincoln MSA January unemployment rate was 2.3%.
* In the Lincoln MSA, there were 4,197 unemployed individuals in January and 15,985 advertised jobs on NEworks. That’s over 3 jobs for every unemployed individual.
* Statewide, the Unemployment rate is 2.4%.

**Agency Sharing of Business Needs**

* Round table conversation regarding what we’ve learned from our meetings with businesses.
* Angela – Lincoln Jobs Talent Acquisition is recruiting to fill teacher roles (Master Teacher, Lead Teacher, Assistant Teacher and Teacher’s Aide). Bi-Lingual candidates are encouraged to apply.
* Angela – An Early Childhood Education Center is looking for Teacher Aide Interns – 30 hours/week, $15.00/hour plus benefits. No experience required. The Center has students representing 14 different countries and 12 languages are spoken. Angela is interviewing this week and scheduling interview with the client by the end of the week/early next week. For more info: acaldwell@journalstar.com
* Zach – United Health Group – work from home positions available. Customer Service Advocate position.
* Clay – many businesses they are working with LL to hiring English Language Learners.
* Gary – FedEx Ground Package Handlers – 4:30am-7am, mid-afternoon to early evening. Great opportunity for someone who is self employed or contract worker and work there to get qualified for benefits.
* Ronesha – Sysco - doing monthly hiring events at AJC. Hires through Community Corrections.
* Ronesha – Instinct – doing monthly hiring events at AJC
* Allison – Legacy Retirement Communities hiring dining positions and internal home caregiver positions. Daytime, full-time, dining positions pay $14/hour (and employees get to see the same people every day and build relationships). Evening, part-time, dining positions pay $11.50/hour. Home caregivers are able to make their own schedule and are frequently part-time. No experience necessary. Earn $14/hour.

**EmployLNK Updates (Job Fairs, Guest Employers, Case Manger Tours, etc.)**

* To update our EmployLNK member database please fill out this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EmployLNKMemberInfo>
	+ Responses from:
		- Nebraska VR – logo sent
		- American Job Center – logo sent
		- Nebraska Department of Labor – NEED LOGO
		- Southeast Community College – logo sent
		- Union Bank & Trust – logo Sent
		- Lincoln VA Medical Center – NEED LOGO
		- Catholic Social Services – logo sent
		- Community Action Partnership – logo sent
		- Center for People in Need – logo sent
		- Nebraska Commission for the Blind – NEED LOGO
		- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska – NEED LOGO
		- Rise – logo sent
		- Proteus – logo sent
		- HBI – NEED LOGO
		- Better Living Counseling Services – logo sent
		- United States Probation and Pretrial Services – NEED LOGO
* A Veterans Career Fair is currently being planned for Wednesday, April 27th at City Impact (1035 N 33rd Street). 2:00 – 6:00pm. Looking to make this a more unique experience – less stressful engagement.
* The planning team is working on an EmployLNK Career Fair to be held in central Lincoln mid-May. More details to come soon!
* The planning team is working to put together additional case manager tours for the upcoming months. Please share any businesses or employment focus areas the group would like to visit with in the coming months.
* LinkedIn -<https://www.linkedin.com/company/employlnk> Follow us and if you have an event you would like to share OR have any job positions that are open at your business, please let Lisa know at lisa.dickey@lincoln.ne.gov by providing a flyer and she can post this information to LinkedIn.

**EmployLNK Agency Updates**

* Welcome to America Job Fairs in Omaha – March 26th at UNO, March 30th at Heartland Workforce Solutions. <https://www.nationalable.org/welcome>
* (Not yet announced – hopefully soon) Lincoln Manufacturing Council (LMC) Manufacturing Tech Certification Program – Starts Wednesday, April 27th. Classes held at Community Action Partnership (210 O Street) every Wednesday for 6 weeks; dinner at 5pm and class from 5:30-7:30. Dinner and childcare are provided. Participants who complete the program earn a locally recognized certificate that provides them with favorable consideration during the hiring process at area manufacturers, especially those in LMC. Certificate holders who apply for at least one manufacturing job also receive $250.
	+ Virtual info session will be March 29th @ 9:30am
* Proteus Inc has partnered with AFOP and are taking part in AFOP National long sleeve shirt drive! Please help give back to those who harvest your food! We are collecting long-sleeve shirts to help protect farmworkers from pesticide exposure and heat-related illnesses. I will be including a flyer below. The National Long Sleeve Shirt Drive is an activity that is part of a larger awareness campaign, Farmworker Awareness Week (NFAW) will be celebrated this year from March 26 to April 2, 2022. Everyone can be part of it! For more information or to join this drive by participating your organization as a drop off location please contact me at TamaraR@proteusinc.net or phone number (531) 510-6396.
* Lincoln Literacy – opening up in person classes in a variety of sites. Also offers job mentoring. Lincolnliteracy.org.
* WIOA (AJC) – in need of out-of-school youth participants for WIOA programs. Application available on Dynamic Workforce Solutions website for individuals who are interested in working with them to make referrals. Applications due March 26th.
* American Job Center – Recognizing Fair Housing Month – April 6th 10:30am Lincoln Housing Authority and April 12th at 11am will have NeighborWorks.

**Community Information on Opportunities & Programs**

* Conversation about recent and anticipated refugees and ways to support.
	+ Lincoln Literacy has long served refugees. Refugees are officially recognized by Government. LFS and CSS are contracting agencies to resettle refugees. 90 days to find housing and social security and basic needs. Have to be self-supporting during that time. Need to learn English as quickly as possible. Volunteer tutors and SCC partnerships. Greatest challenge is finding adequate housing. Rental market is very tight and landlords are often very wary of offering housing to refugees that only have 3 months rent. Many hundreds will likely be resettled between now and September 30th. Often eager to get to work and support families but significant challenges – English, how to acquire a job, punctuality, etc. and other cultural differences to successfully integrate into the community and successfully hold down jobs.
	+ Pool of more than a thousand Ukrainian refugees in Lincoln and family reunification a priority so family members may join here in Lincoln.
	+ WIOA program available to help support with career pathways – working closely with Kawasaki and LL at the moment to offer ELL classes. AJC working to add service for interpreting.
	+ CSS – help them find employment and help offer interpreters through first orientation. Full-service program. Also help with job upgrades (over 2-3 years).
* The Federal Bonding Program
	+ To broaden your applicant pool, consider individuals who have traditionally faced barriers to employment. The Fidelity Bonding Program is a unique hiring tool that provides second-chance employers insurance coverage in the amount of $5,000 for the first six months of employment or job promotion per employee. To receive bond coverage at no cost, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor today!
	+ email: NDOL.RSFidelityBonds@nebraska.gov
* Additional rent assistance is available! <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Mayor/Housing-Utility-Assistance>
* Community Action Partnership for Lancaster and Saunders county has a [Free to Save Matched Savings program](https://www.communityactionatwork.org/programs/financial-and-family-well-being/free-to-save.html) for eligible low-to-moderate incomes with great incentive to save, build wealth, and transform their economic aspirations into reality. The program provides financial and asset-specific education in addition to 4:1 savings match.
* The [Emergency Broadband Benefit](http://www.allofiber.com/EBB) (EBB) program, which went into effect in May of this year, offers $50 per month credit for internet / broadband services to households who qualify. ALLO is offering their standard 500/500Mbps internet at NO COST with a free WiFi router, free installation, and no contract. Nationally, almost 5 million subscribers have been enrolled in the EBB program. Nearly 16,000 are in Nebraska with 4,300 in Lincoln.

There are many more families and students who qualify for this program and funds are still available. In fact, new legislation has been introduced to continue this program indefinitely. Of the initial $3.2 Billion appropriated, approximately $2.7 Billion is still available. Qualifiers for eligibility are:

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
2. Medicaid,
3. National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program,
4. Household Income Less than 135% of Federal Poverty Level,
5. Substantial Loss of Income (with Total Household Income Below $99K for Single Filers or $198K for Joint Filers),
6. Supplemental Security Income,
7. Federal Pell Grant,
8. Federal Public Housing Assistance,
9. Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
* MyLink Note from Bryan Seck (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Adt5gsnsnxTSqrT0rJo6-F3PV1sWgkLP?usp=sharing>):

Did you know that over 1,500 people each month utilize MyLink each month to find services? With Thanksgiving about a week away, this is a great time to add holiday services or update your organization's information.

To update/add, please visit mylnk.app. If you see something that you would like to update/add, click on the Request a New Program button on the bottom right of the screen. If services are time specific, please make that notation in the update request and I will take down after the event.

MyLink lists hundreds of organizations searchable by topic such as "diapers," a food/health calendar, and provides information in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, and now Somali! It works offline once downloaded and is also available at mylnk.app.

Please feel free to share this information with your clients and staff! I have attached posters to this email. This can be edited as needed.

MyLink is a collaboration between Don't Panic Labs, the Center for People in Need, and Leadership Lincoln.

Thank you! Bryan

Bryan Seck

bryan@mylnk.app

402-541-9988

[MyLinkWeb](https://mylnk.app/home)

**Closing Remarks**

* 2021 EmployLNK meetings: 4/20, 5/18
* When working with businesses, please let them know that you and your organization are connected to EmployLNK. Feel free to use the bullets below in your business communication:
	+ EmployLNK includes all nonprofits and city and state agencies focused on workforce development.
	+ Together, we serve thousands of Lincoln residents and we have a listserv of 600+ case managers and human service professionals.
	+ When your business shares information with one member, with your permission, we share it with our entire team to ensure that your business has the talent it needs to be successful.
	+ EmployLNK organizes case manager business tours to increase their understanding of your business.
	+ When case managers are able to experience the culture of a business, they can make better referrals to the career seekers they serve.
	+ EmployLNK organizes bi-annual Job Career Fairs that brings together 40 employers, 200+ job seekers, and 60+ case managers to learn about each other’s services and career opportunities.
	+ Businesses have reported hiring 149 people from EmployLNK events and outreach.